

Using the Parts of Speech

Nouns

A **noun** is a word that names a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

Person: John Ulferts (uncle) **Thing:** "Yankee Doodle" (song)

Place: Mississippi (state) **Idea:** Labor Day (holiday)

Kinds of Nouns

754.1

Common Nouns

A common noun is any noun that does not name a specific person, place, thing, or idea. These nouns are not capitalized.

woman museum book weekend

754.2

Proper Nouns

A proper noun is the name of a specific person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns are capitalized.

Hillary Clinton Central Park Maniac McGee Sunday

754.3

Concrete Nouns

A concrete noun names a thing that is physical (can be touched or seen). Concrete nouns can be either proper or common.

space station pencil Statue of Liberty

754.4

Abstract Nouns

An abstract noun names something you can think about but cannot see or touch. Abstract nouns can be either common or proper.

Judaism poverty satisfaction illness

754.5

Collective Nouns

A collective noun names a group or collection of persons, animals, places, or things.

Persons: tribe, congregation, family, class, team

Animals: flock, herd, gaggle, clutch, litter

Things: batch, cluster, bunch

754.6

Compound Nouns

A compound noun is made up of two or more words.

football (written as one word)

high school (written as two words)

brother-in-law (written as a hyphenated word)

Grammar Practice

Nouns 1

■ Kinds of Nouns



Write the answers to the questions following each paragraph.

After 300 years of Spanish rule, Mexico gained its independence in 1810. Like the United States, Mexico is a federal republic headed by a president. The country is divided into 31 states.

Which of the underlined nouns is . . .

1. a common, concrete noun?
2. a common, abstract noun?
3. a proper, concrete noun?

The population of the entire country is nearly 105 million. A full 89 percent of the people are Roman Catholics. The country's official language is Spanish.

Which of the underlined nouns is . . .

4. a collective noun?
5. a proper, abstract noun?
6. a proper, concrete noun?

Mexico's geography ranges from mountains to desert to low coastal plains. As a result, its climate also varies; there are hot, temperate, and cool regions. Mexico can be an enjoyable place for a family to vacation.

Which of the underlined nouns is . . .

7. a proper, concrete noun?
8. a collective noun?
9. a common, abstract noun?
10. a common, concrete noun?